

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 16th April 1904.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th April has the following:—

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 8th, 1904.

The Tibet war.

Anglo-Indian journalists are making a great deal of noise over the fact that satisfactory arrangements have been made for the treatment of the Tibetan wounded. They are extolling Western civilization for this, and they claim that the Tibetans ought to be thankful for this kind treatment. These remarks of Anglo-Indian journalists have surprised us. Mercy to the vanquished foe is indicative of humanity in the conqueror. India has ever been specially noted for this quality. The Japanese are now shewing every possible kindness to the wounded Russians. The English are barely doing their duty, and there is nothing extraordinary in it.

Then as to the question of gratitude, it was the English who of their own motion brought about the quarrel with the Tibetans, who were unwilling to fight. Contrary to the rules of war, the English attacked the inoffensive Tibetans and inflicted cruel wounds upon them, and it is the English who are now filling the world with their own praise for their kindness to the Tibetans. What can be a more pitiable sight than this? We cannot say whether a sufficient expiation would be performed for the sin of cow-killing by "making a gift of shoes after killing a cow" as the saying goes, but of this we are certain, that such a gift is not a sign of generosity in the man who makes it.

2. Panchananda publishes a cartoon in the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th April under the heading "Who is to get the *fuzli* mango?" In this cartoon Korea is represented as a *fuzli* mango hanging by its stalk. A Jap has laid his hand on it, while the Russian Bear is trying to reach it with its protruded tongue. Three Westerners are standing at the bottom of the mango tree, looking at the hanging fruit. The letter-press says, "It won't do to hold it by the hand, nor will it do to protrude your tongue towards it. The *fuzli* will be the prize of the strongest."

A cartoon.

BANGAVASI,
April 9th, 1904.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

3. A correspondent writes to the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 29th March that thefts have fearfully increased in Khagdahari, Galgonda, Kalyanpur and other neighbouring villages in the Mymensingh district.

CHARU MIHIR,
March 29th, 1904.

Thefts and outrages in the Mymensingh district.

A few days ago the *budmashes* attacked Babu Saratsasi Datta, Sub-Inspector of Police, on the Muktagatcha road, while he was returning to Khagdahari from the mufassal. Shop-keepers and dealers in fish in the local markets are suffering loss owing the lawless practices of the *budmashes*. Outrages upon females are now frequent. The *chaukidars* are very negligent, and they are perfect strangers to the inhabitants. No previous notice is given to the villagers as to when they shall have to pay the *chaukidari*-tax, and it often happens that the tax is realized by selling the domestic articles of the poor by auction. The present method of the assessment of the *chaukidari*-tax is very unfair. The assessment should be made by some responsible Government officer. The *chaukidar* should be provided with a register to be signed by villagers as a proof of the fact that he is doing his duty properly, as is done in the case of the village postman.

4. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 2nd April takes the District Superintendent of Police, Barisal, to task for his unnecessarily harsh treatment of his subordinates, whom he dismisses from service for the slightest faults. For instance, he dismissed Babu Annada

BARISAL HITAIISHI,
April 2nd, 1904.

Harsh treatment of subordinates by the District Superintendent of Police, Backergunge.

Charan Gupta, Sub-Inspector, on mere suspicion of his having accepted a bribe of one rupee, although the charge could not be proved against him. His appeal, too, to the Government has been dismissed. Babu Kshirod Chandra Mukharji, another Sub-Inspector, was dismissed, but he was reinstated by the Divisional Commissioner. On his reinstatement the District Superintendent threatened to write against him to the Inspector-General of Police and have him dismissed again.

and to stop his pay. Fortunately, the Magistrate did not grant the District Superintendent's unreasonable request to stop the man's pay or again to dismiss him. Yet another Sub-Inspector, Babu Jogendra Nath Datta, narrowly escaped being harassed by the District Superintendent, not for anything wrong he had done himself, but for the carelessness of a Court Sub-Inspector. It is due to the uprightness of the Magistrate that the man has escaped punishment. The Magistrate ought to look into Annada Babu's case and do him justice.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL MATEEN,
April 4th, 1904.

5. The Persian community living in Calcutta, says the *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 4th April are thankful to the Commissioner of the Calcutta Police for the good arrangements made by him during the last *Muharram* festival for passing the *tazia* procession of the Shias in the town. The police arrangement of this year was better than that of the preceding years.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
April 5th, 1904.

6. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 5th April writes that the police arrangements at Burdwan on the occasion of the visit of His Excellency the Viceroy were excellent. Although more than a lakh of people had come to the town on the occasion, no hitch occurred. This reflects much credit on the police. Nobody heard of a single complaint against the conduct of the police on that occasion.

TRIPURA HITAIISHI,
April 5th, 1904.

7. The *Tripura Hitaishi* [Comilla] of the 5th April writes as follows:—

The police. The character of the police in this country is truly despicable. The zamindar's *barkandaz*, the court peon, and the police constable, the ostensible keeper of the peace, are as dangerous as sharks in the sea, the police constable being the most dangerous of them all. When a man enters the police service he thinks that from that time people will fear him, that the high-road to affluence will be constantly open to him, and that he will be able to indulge in mischief-making to any extent. Bad notions like these poison the minds of young police employes and make them insolent. Do the chaukidars, the constables, the darogas, etc., by whom we find ourselves constantly surrounded, really desire our welfare? No, they care more for their selfish ends than for the welfare of society.

A theft occurs in the house of a villager. Information is lodged in the thana. The police appears in full force. The villagers run about in fear. There is only one topic in men's mouths—"The police has come." The chaukidar and the panchayet go about in search of rations for which the police does not pay a single pie. The poor villager in whose house the policemen appear has not only to feed them, but has to bribe them too for fear of being falsely charged with having lodged a false information. People would, therefore, much rather have thieves than the police in their houses. When *budmashes* commit oppressions on innocent people on public roads and thoroughfares the police is nowhere to be found. But when the oppressed persons go to lodge information in the thana, there, they are subjected to fresh oppressions. Men therefore refrain from seeking the help of the police even in times of difficulty. Men fear the police just as they fear thieves and dacoits on highways! What a shame! The qualities of an ideal police are fairly possessed by the London Police. Senor Village says, "It also appears to me remarkable the manner in which the traffic immediately obeys the least sign of the police without any recriminations even at the busiest thoroughfares." The Maharaja of Kolapur says about the London Police, "The rush of business, compared with European cities, has most impressed us. The police organisation and their quiet control of traffic have struck us greatly." An American traveller says, "The London policeman is a marvel. . . . He is everybody's friend, he never loses his head or temper, he challenges admiration as a skilful tactician, as without noise or fuss or parade, he bravely wins bloodless victories." Our police only roars and swaggers and belabours the accused person. *Zulm* is the keynote of its conduct. There ought to be established a number of schools in the country for the purpose of imparting moral instruction to our police servants.

8. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 8th April says that two minor girls, both named Damini, and both inhabitants of the Keshekul village in the Bankura district and Bauris by caste, have been sent off to Assam as coolies by *arkatis*. Digambari, the octogenarian grandmother of one of the girls, has no one else in the world to support her. The other girl is also the only child of her widowed mother, Kshetramani. The two women went to the thana, but to no effect. Again, Chandravali, the daughter of one Mahi Baurini, of Rathtala, is missing since the 9th *Chaitra* last. Mahi says that she has been sent off to Cachar by Kunja and Bipin, of the Kenduadihi village. Chandravali is not a minor. There is no means of knowing whether she went of her own free will or not. Such are the results of the cooly law.

BANKURA DARPAN,
April 8th, 1904.

9. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 9th April complains of the prevalence of cattle-lifting in the Howrah district. Recently some unsuccessful attempts at cattle-lifting were made in the villages Ranmahal and Sealdingi.

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,
April 9th, 1904.

10. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 10th April is sorry that the Magistrate of Howrah has granted a license for opening a grog-shop in Jhokra, a village in the Howrah district. The villagers have petitioned the Magistrate for cancelling the license. It is to be hoped that he will grant the petition.

HITAVARTA,
April 10th, 1904.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

11. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 29th March is afraid that, as a result of the inspection of the Civil Courts in Mymensingh town by Mr. Justice Rampini, the parties to suits will no longer be granted postponements as readily as heretofore. What they want is justice, and not mere speedy disposal of their suits. The pleaders of the parties have no interest in the postponements, which are generally unavoidably granted for want of time. Poor people cannot afford to appeal to the High Court against the judgments of lower Courts, so these will be most prejudicially affected if postponements are not granted as now. The hearing of appeals according to their serial numbers cannot be introduced into the mufassal Courts without entailing serious inconvenience to all concerned. It is to be hoped that on the perusal of Mr. Justice Rampini's report, the Hon'ble Judges of the High Court will issue such orders as may ensure proper hearing of the cases without requiring an arbitrary clearing of the file.

CHARU MIHIR,
March 29th, 1904.

12. One Upendra Nath Mukhopadhyaya, writing from Barisal in the *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 2nd April, makes the following complaints against the Sub-Registrar of Gaurnadi:—

BARISAL HITAIISHI,
April 2nd, 1904.

(1) The Sub-Registrar is a man of a very bad temper and habitually offers bodily violence to those who come to register deeds.

(2) The Sub-Registrar has no fixed time for holding his cutcherry. He goes to Barisal every Saturday to meet his wife and comes back on Monday, and does not, therefore, hold his cutcherry on those two days of the week.

(3) The Sub-Registrar is a little deaf.

(4) His subordinates are very extortionate. One has to take some money for gratifying them before one can expect to have his deed registered.

13. The *Pratihar* [Berhampore] of the 8th April writes that a notice by beat of drum has been issued at Berhampore by the Assistant Settlement Officer, Babu Abani Charan Chatterji, to the effect that the Bhagirathi *chur* lands will be taken possession of by Government, and that those persons who have already occupied portions of these lands shall have to surrender them to Government, otherwise a regular suit will be filed against them for their ejection and for compensation. This notice has caused a great sensation in the Berhampore town. A serious litigation is likely to take place between the Berhampore zamindars and the Government over this question.

PRATIKAR,
April 8th, 1904.

NAVA YUG,
April 9th, 1904.

14. The *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 9th April says that in the Calcutta Police Court witnesses are allowed to walk about unrestrained outside the court-room. This affords pleaders and their muharrirs opportunities to enlighten them on the evidence of witnesses within. This is a very injurious practice, resulting sometimes in the conviction of innocent people.

(d)—Education.

CHARU MIHIR,
March 29th, 1904.

15. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 29th March has the following:—

Government and education.

We believe higher education in India has been killed by the Universities Act, and the Government Resolution on education will soon destroy the private schools.

Government has accused the Indians of niggardliness in educational matters, but taken no notice of its own conduct in regard to the spending of the people's money. Out of the total annual expenditure of 63 lakhs on primary education, Government pays only 16 lakhs, the rest being borne by the District Boards and Municipalities and thus indirectly by the people themselves. Of this 16 lakhs, upwards of 8 lakhs is spent for the education of 30,000 Europeans and Eurasians, and only the remaining portion is spent for the education of one crore and eighty thousand Indians. This invidious distinction does not surprise us, but we are sorry to be credited with a fault of which we are not guilty.

The strict rules which Government proposes to enforce with regard to private schools and colleges will soon wipe them out of existence. Government means to exercise full control over schools and colleges without rendering any pecuniary assistance to them. Such an arrangement can never be acceptable to the public.

PALLIVASI,
March 30th, 1904.

16. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 30th March has the following:—

The Universities Act and the Education Resolution.

Most people believe that if effect be now given to the provisions of the Universities Act and the Resolution of the Government of India on education, little hope will remain for the people of this country. The question is, what is to be done now? It is not difficult to conjecture how far the Indians will be successful in future in the matter of obtaining service under Government. Instead of showering wealth upon Government for the sole purpose of pleasing it, cannot the wealthy men of India try to give such instruction to their countrymen and make such other arrangements as may enable them to earn a bare livelihood? If they will not do it, cannot a united effort be made to secure the same end?

BARISAL HITTAISHI,
April 2nd, 1904.

17. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 2nd April says that the examination papers in Sanskrit in the last B.A.

The Sanskrit papers in the last B.A. Examination.

Examination contained some questions to be answered in Sanskrit which were so difficult that it is doubtful if the paper-setters themselves could have at all satisfactorily answered them, not to say within the specified time of three hours. The paper-examiners ought to be a little lenient to the candidates.

CHARU MIHIR,
April 5th, 1904.

18. Babu Iswar Chandra Guha, writing from Jamalpur, Mymensingh, in the *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 5th April,

The Science Reader for upper primary and middle schools.

points out the following inaccuracies in the Botanical portion of Babu Girish Chandra Bose's *Science Readers*, Standards III and IV, which are the text-books for the upper primary and middle schools:—

(1) *Standard III.—Part I, lesson 1, page 3.*—The statement “পত্র ব্যতীত উদ্ভিদ বাঁচেনা” (plants do not live without leaves) is inaccurate. Many plants of the orchid and cactus species have no leaves, such as *Opuntia*, *Lipiomium*, and *Cerus*. Many aquatic plants, too, have no leaves.

Lesson 3, page 5.—The statement “কতকগুলি উদ্ভিদের কাণ্ড আঁজন্ম মাটির নীচেই থাকে, যথা পঁয়াজ, রসুন, ওলকচু, মানকচু ও কচু ইত্যাদি।” (the trunks of some plants always remain under the earth, such as onion, garlic, *olkachu*, *kachu*, and *man kachu*, etc.) is inaccurate. The trunks of those kinds of *kachu* which remain under the earth may be called their roots.

Page 6.—The statement “আদা, হলুদ, বানকহু, ওলকহু প্রভৃতি উদ্ভিদের কাণ্ডে শল্ক ব্যতীত কুহুঃ “চোক” বা শুল্ক দেখিতে পাও, ইত্যাদি।” is also inaccurate, as the writer has never seen “শল্ক” or scales on the trunk of any kind of ওলকহু or amorphophalus.

Lesson 4, page 27.—The statement “অল্প বাহির হইবার সময়ে মৃত্তিকার অল্প পরিমাণ জল পাইলে পরে আর শেযোক্ত কসলের জল আবশ্যক হয় না। কারণ ইহাদের মূল মৃত্তিকা ভেদ করিয়া, বহুদূরে নামে এবং তথা হইতে জলকে আকর্ষণ করিয়া তুলে; উহাদিগকে মৃত্তিকার জলের অপেক্ষা করিতে হয় না। যুগ ও মাষকলাই, কুলখ-কলাই, খেসারি, কাকুর, তরমুজ, কুমড়া আর ভুট্টা বা জনার, শ্যামা, কেমো, চিনা, প্রভৃতি ধানজাতীয় কসল এপক্ষে উৎকৃষ্ট উদাহরণ। একবার অল্পমাত্র হইলে, পরে আর মৃত্তিকার জল ইহাদের পক্ষে আবশ্যক হয় না।” (if the latter crops receive a little moisture from the earth at the time of germination they do not require water afterwards. Because their roots penetrate deep into the earth and draw their sap from there, not requiring rain water to supply their wants. *Mung*, pulses, *cucurbita*, maize, and crops of the paddy kind are good examples of crops of this kind. If they can once germinate, they do not require rain water afterwards) is a grossly inaccurate statement. The roots of *mung* and pulses, to which botanists have given the generic name of the *leguminosæ*, never penetrate deep into the earth. The roots of paddy, pulses, and *cucurbita* never penetrate into the earth more than six inches. The moisture those plants receive from the soil and the atmosphere in times of drought being insufficient for their requirements, it becomes necessary to water them in such times. Even the spring or *rabi* crops require occasional showers of rain, before they bloom, for their sustenance, although they receive plenty of dew at night. *Mung*, pulses, etc., belonging as they do to the *leguminosæ* species, are quite distinct from paddy, maize, and *milea chemem*, which belong to the species *graminæ*, and the author has been wrong in mixing them up together. The roots of the *graminæ* are fibrous and never penetrate deep into the earth. They require, moreover, plenty of rain water for their proper growth, so much so indeed, that it would not be far wrong to call them aquatic plants. The roots of the *cucurbitacæ*, also, do not penetrate to any depth into the earth, and the plants require watering when the moisture in the soil is insufficient.

Page 28.—The author is wrong in saying “শকরকন্দ আলুর ইংরেজী নাম cassava * * * * * ইত্যাদি। পূর্ব বঙ্গে উহাকে শিমুল আলু বলে। etc.” “শকর কন্দ আলু” is not, as the author says, called “শিমুল আলু” in East Bengal. Besides শকরকন্দ আলু is not cassava, but *Ipomæ Batatas* and শিমুল আলু is cassava. It is only the root of the sweet cassava, or *Manihet Inæ*, that is eatable under all circumstances; the root of the other kind of cassava, namely, poisonous cassava, or *Manihet utilisissima* is not eatable before the root has been cut up in pieces, and its poisonous element has been eliminated by boiling or heating.

(2) *Standard IV.*—*Lesson 1, page 2.*—The statement “আকন্দ ও ডালিমের পাতা বৃন্তহীন (the leaves of calatropis and pomegranate have no petioles) is erroneous. The petioles of the leaves of those two plants may be shut, but to say that they have no petioles is grossly incorrect.

19. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 7th April wants to know whether it is true that Father Lafont, when questioned by a Parsi gentleman why college fees for Indians in the St. Xavier's College were raised from Rs. 6 to Rs. 10, said that the fees were raised by the order of Government and that the Parsis, by joining the Indian National Congress, had come to be regarded as Indians and would therefore have to pay fees at the enhanced rate.

SANJIVANI.
April 7th, 1904.

20. Referring to Mr. Pedler's appointment to the Vice-Chancellorship of the Calcutta University, the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th April says that what was anticipated has come to pass. Mr. Pedler is a lucky man; he is in the good graces of Lord Curzon. Of course, a fit man was required for carrying out His Excellency's educational plan.

HITAVADI,
April 8th, 1904.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
April 8th, 1904.

21. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 6th April is glad at the appointment of Mr. Pedler to the Vice-Chancellorship of the Calcutta University and expects much from him in that capacity.

NAVA YUG,
April 9th, 1904.

22. No wonder, says the *Nava Yug* [Calcutta] of the 9th April, that Mr. Pedler has been appointed Vice-Chancellor of the Calcutta University. His talents and brilliant ability have won for him the esteem of Lord Curzon. So long as the sun and the moon will endure, Mr. Pedler's vernacular scheme will not be forgotten. Arrangements have been made for importing from England Bengali books for the upper primary schools in Bengal, and 99 *addas* have been instituted for preparing *gurus* in the Pedlerian fashion to teach those books. Perhaps when Mr. Pedler will be in England, he will make arrangements there for sending English *gurus* for the *pathsalas* in Bengal.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

SOLTAN,
April 8th, 1904.

23. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 8th April takes the Calcutta Municipality to task for not properly looking after the conservancy of those quarters of the town which are most infected by plague. It is a shame that in spite of the existence of a costly Plague Department, the fell disease rages as virulently as ever in those quarters.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
April 8th, 1904.

24. The *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 8th April is glad that two of the candidates for the vacancy which has occurred on the Municipal Bench at Baduria in the 24-Parganas district on account of the death of Munshi Naimuddin Saheb, Honorary Magistrate, are Musalmans, Munshi Ahajaddin Akhunji and Kazi Abdul Gani. Munshi Akhunji is an old, experienced, prudent and influential man, and his appointment will make every one happy. Gani Saheb is well up in the English language and has unmistakable ability in judicial work. It is hoped that the appointment will be given to the more deserving of these two men.

RANGALAY,
April 10th, 1904.

25. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 10th April writes as follows:—
Is this offer of fifty lakhs of rupees made by the Government of India—a bait with a view to draw out more than is given and to thoroughly recast Calcutta—a good one for us? You cannot go three miles east of Calcutta and live there, for malaria rages there virulently. On the north you find malarious regions within eight miles of the town. On the west there is the Hooghly and beyond it malaria. On the south is the salt marsh—a region in which there is also no want of malaria. Where are the people to go under these circumstances? The funniest thing in regard to this offer has been said by our Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Andrew Fraser. He said:—"This is subject to the condition that a satisfactory scheme is proposed, and if a satisfactory scheme is not proposed the grant will be withdrawn." So this is a gift-horse and must by no means be looked into the mouth—nay, one which the recipient would rather decline if he could.

A satisfactory scheme, according to English notions, would mean a scheme that would be simply ruinous to us. Let Government improve the villages in Bengal, and the means of communication between those villages and towns, and we shall live there, leaving the town wholly to Europeans, to day-labourers, and to native millionaires. We are living in the town only because we have found it impossible to live in the villages for want of drinking-water, food articles, good roads, and good arrangements generally, and on account of police oppression, the prevalence of theft and dacoity, the dirty washings of the septic tanks, and the extortionate charges made by labourers. Provide for the people fit places to live in and they will not live near you. But you would not improve villages, and by creating municipalities you are only laying on tax after tax, so that the villagers are sorely oppressed, and for sheer self-preservation are coming to the town to live there. But you will not allow them to live even there. Don't you see that the people have been made uneasy by your polished, civilised and withal irresistible oppression? Is this good? Is it right to act thus?

26. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th April has the following :—

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 10th, 1904

The Calcutta house-owners. Sir Andrew Fraser has not forgotten the selfishness of Calcutta house-owners, and His Honour is determined to be revenged upon them for their past misconduct. But if His Honour had made a careful calculation of the receipts of the house-owners, he would never have called them "rapacious." It is doubtful whether they get even 6 per cent. on their money after making from the rents they receive deductions on account of municipal tax, repairs, etc. Let His Honour build houses for officials with the people's money, if he so likes, for who is there who can oppose his will? But it is deeply to be regretted that he charges the house-owners with a fault of which they are not guilty and tries to justify his action by so doing.

27. A correspondent complains in the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th April that the assessment of municipal rates in the Bansbaria Municipality in the Hooghly district has been most unfair this year. The following are some of the instances :—

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 13th, 1904.

| Name. | Previous tax. | | Increased tax. | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-----|----------------|--|
| | Rs. | A. | Rs. | |
| Satkari Nandan | ... | 3 0 | 15 | |
| Sarada Charan Banerji | ... | 6 0 | 15 | |
| Fakir Chandra Changa (a poor man) | 1 | 8 | 9 | |
| Dr. Tinkari Adhya | ... | 3 2 | 4 | |

The last-named gentleman has many sources of income, but as he is a Municipal Commissioner, there was only a slight increase to his tax. Babu Sasibhusan Sadhu is a rich and influential man in Bansbaria, and the present Chairman is indebted to him. It was perhaps for this reason that his tax was increased by one-fourth. When the brother of the present Chairman was the Vice-Chairman, he reduced his own tax and that of his two brothers from a total of Rs. 108, at the rate of Rs. 36 each, to Rs. 84. The three brothers are not members of a joint family, but they were so treated at the assessment. It is to be hoped that the authorities will take prompt notice of this matter.

28. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th April says that the rates levied within the Bansbaria Municipality were increased in September of last year, and they were again enhanced in March last. Illiterate people were not aware of their enhancements in time to appeal against them. In many cases, the taxes have been increased three or four-fold and this only to light five miles of streets and seven miles of lanes.

HITAVADI,
April 8th, 1904.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

29. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 12th April writes that the survey operations have commenced. It is alleged that those who can please the *amins* get some advantages in their favour. The survey is being made in the name of cultivators who till the lands and get a share of the produce, but have no right to those lands. If survey is carried on in their name, the owners of the lands will be placed in great trouble and will have to suffer much loss. It is to be hoped that the authorities will see that the objections of the parties are removed.

NIHAR,
April 12th 1904.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

30. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 6th April draws the attention of the authorities to the miserable condition of the road joining the Kotampur thana in the Bankura district with the Khandghosh thana in the Burdwan district, a distance of about 14 miles. Encroachments upon the road have been made at some places. Representations were made to the District Board and to the Divisional Commissioner, but no notice was taken of them. At last Mr. J. N. Gupta, the District Magistrate of Bankura, caused an enquiry to be made, and an annual grant for the repair of the road was

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BASAR
PATRIKA,
April 6th, 1904.

promised. But now Mr. Gupta has refused to sanction any grant from the District Board unless the villagers undertake to pay a part of the expenses. But, unfortunately, the people are extremely poor and are not in a position to render any help. It is to be hoped Government will draw the attention of the District Boards of Bankura and Burdwan to the matter.

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI,
April 5th, 1904.

31. A correspondent writes to the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 5th April that on the 25th March last two schoolboys were going to Saktigarh by the first

A railway complaint.

local train from Burdwan to Howrah. The door of the carriage in which they were travelling had been previously locked, and it was not opened when the train arrived at Saktigarh, although the boys repeatedly requested the guard to open it. They were thus carried to the Rasulpur station, where they represented the matter to the Station Master, who took no notice of it and compelled them to pay the excess fare. Now, who is responsible for the trouble and loss to the boys?

HITAVADI,
April 8th, 1904.

32. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th April says that in the evening

"Office trains" from and to Howrah.

after 6 P.M. there are only two trains, one starting at 6-35 P.M. and another at 8-30 P.M., from the Howrah station on the East Indian Railway, by

which passengers can go to Hooghly, Bandel, or Chandernagore. This causes great inconvenience to a large section of daily passengers who work in merchant offices in Calcutta. Up to the end of March last the 7-30 o'clock train in the evening used to run up to Bandel, but now this train goes up to Seoraphuli only. Under the present timing of trains the so-called "office trains" will prove of little use to office employes. So long No. 34 down train used to arrive at Howrah at 9-22 A.M., enabling daily passengers to attend their offices at 10 A.M. But now this train arrives at Howrah at 8-55 A.M., causing great inconvenience and hardship to such employes.

HITAVADI,
April 8th, 1904.

33. The same paper publishes the following railway complaints:—

Railway complaints.

(1) A correspondent says that on the 28th March last a passenger was very rudely treated by a ticket-collector for having sat on a bench on platform No. III at the Howrah station on the East Indian Railway. The matter was brought to the notice of the Station Master, who came out and said that that bench was not intended for the use of passengers but for that of ticket-collectors only. There are benches on platform No. I for passengers to sit on. Why are there not similar benches on platforms Nos. II and III?

(2) A correspondent says that recently all the lights in No. 8 down train on the Bengal Provincial Railway went out even before it reached the Magraganj station, a mile from the Magra station. The lights were never afterwards lighted during the journey. Most of the carriages on the line are without doors. This, together with the want of light, made the condition of the passengers of the above train dangerous and miserable.

HITAVARTA,
April 10th, 1904.

34. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 10th April is glad that the authorities

Passenger's grievances attended to by a railway.

of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway have made arrangements for selling third-class tickets to intending passengers all through the day and night, and

made some special concessions for the benefit of female passengers. It is to be hoped that other railways will follow these good examples.

NIHAR,
April 12th, 1904.

35. A correspondent writes to the *Nihar* [Contai] of the 12th April an

A ferry accident.

account of an accident resulting in serious loss of life. One Hari Dalai was appointed by Govern-

ment to undertake the work of ferrying passengers and cattle from Talpati in the Contai subdivision to various places in the Diamond Harbour subdivision. On the 4th April last, one of the ferry boats carrying about 150 or 160 men and women sank into the water at about 4 P.M. The cause of this sad calamity was that the boat, which was old and out of repairs, had been too heavily laden. The District Boards of Midnapore and the 24-Parganas which undertook such a risky work ought to have made satisfactory arrangements and to have been more careful.

(h)—General.

36. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 5th April complains of the hardship which is being caused to the postal employes in the Mymensingh district by the action of the present Postal Superintendent, Babu Kshetra Pada Banerji, in refusing privilege leave to such of the employes as are entitled to three months' privilege leave and require it urgently.

CHARU MIHIR,
April 5th, 1904.

37. It is needless to point out, says the same paper that the Viceroy's Budget speech was full of self-glorification. It was natural that he should support his own actions. His long speech has failed to convince us that the pecuniary condition of the Indian people has improved in any way. His Excellency was of opinion that the Indians had not yet become fit for political privileges. What His Excellency says must be taken as gospel truth, and it is fruitless to contradict him.

CHARU MIHIR.

38. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 6th April writes:—

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA.
April 6th, 1904.

The Budget.

Since the advent of Lord Curzon in this country, year after year its prosperity has been proclaimed in official papers. Every year there has been a surplus. Government may proclaim the country's prosperity, but those who always study its condition will never admit it. It must be a matter of surprise that in a country where the average income per head is only Rs. 27, or, according to Lord Curzon himself, Rs. 30 annually, there should be such a large surplus. What hope is there for a country, which, being the poorest on earth, has to supply such large revenues? Indeed, such an increase in the revenues of India is an unprecedented event in its history. The total amount of surplus during the last six years was 29 crores, while that during the twenty years preceding this period was only seventeen crores and a half. We do not know what was it that made India so prosperous during the last six years. It is a mystery to us. We are led to suspect, when we think of this prosperity side by side with the gradually increasing poverty of the people, that Government is really overtaxing the country. No fresh source of income has been opened up to the people, nor has Government effected any appreciable economy in its expenditure. What, then, may be the cause of this surplus? When we recollect that at the commencement of this period of six years, lakhs of people died from starvation and innumerable cattle also died, and that Government had to spend huge sums of money to help the people in their distress, such surpluses year after year appear to be truly marvellous. The truth, however, is that Government, afraid of a financial deficit, had recourse to rack-renting the people, unmindful of their abject circumstances.

Surpluses are by no means undesirable, but it is opposed to the policy of a civilized Government to subject the people to excessive taxation in order to secure surpluses. Government ought to know that it does the country incalculable mischief by shewing what it calls surpluses.

As a proof of the proposition that the country is prospering, His Excellency the Viceroy points out the increased deposits in the savings banks. It is a mistake to suppose that the savings bank deposits can ever be a sure index of a country's prosperity. Instead of investing money in loans at profitable rates of interest, people find it more safe and convenient to deposit their savings in the Post Office savings banks which offer only a very low rate of interest. How can this fact point to an increase in the wealth of the country?

Lord Curzon characterizes those as eccentric who constantly wail over the country's poverty, heedless of the sun of its "robust vitality" and prosperity. Needless to say that we are not eccentric nor are we so perverse as to din into the ears of our rulers the mournful tale of our distress while we are really rolling in wealth. It would be nearer the truth to say that it is beyond our power to give a faithful picture of the dire misery that the country has suffered for a hundred years. We believe that it is with the object of glorifying his administration and indulging in self-laudation that Lord Curzon's Government announces the prosperity of India. It is all very well to do so

on paper, but it is beyond human power to suppress the stern reality when the demons of famine and plague appear in all their hideousness and threaten to devour the whole country.

Now that there has been a large surplus, why cannot Government effect the separation of the executive and judicial functions? Government should at least relieve the District Magistrate of the care of the police, thereby enabling him to pay greater attention to administrative matters. Government has made extensive grants for the city improvement scheme, the Museum, the Imperial Library, public parks, etc. But these do not directly benefit the people. A more practical reform would be, as the Hon'ble Gokhale pointed out, a further reduction of eight annas per maund in the salt-tax; and a reduction of the cotton duty would be another relief to the people. Government knows full well how miserable the people are, and yet, knowing this, sucks the blood of the already bloodless people. The Hon'ble Dr. Mukerji drew attention to the advisability of reducing the excessive army expenditure, and showed that the much-vaunted surpluses were fictitious. Government totally disregards all that Indian members of the Council have to say; but self-laudation and contempt for others can never make any one a great statesman. What we want is that the surplus money should be well spent, and that a remission of taxation should be granted to the poor people who had contributed to the surplus.

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 13th, 1904.

39. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 13th April writes:—

The Budget.

In trying to show in his Budget speech the increased appointment of Indians to the public service, Lord Curzon tried to conceal the real facts by a clever manipulation of words.

His Excellency has shown that the number of appointments carrying a salary of Rs. 75 has been now doubled, compared with the corresponding number in the year 1868, but the percentage of foreigners in these appointments has come down from 55 per cent. to 42, while the percentage of natives has risen from 45 to 58, and that therefore the number of natives has increased. We never expected such arguments from Lord Curzon. He has himself said that in the last forty years the percentage of natives in the public service has increased 13 per cent. But how far education has spread and the population increased during this period should certainly have been considered in the above calculation. Can it be said that the number of natives in the public service has increased when these facts are taken into account? Will His Excellency deny that competent foreigners are not available on low pay? When these facts are considered it must be admitted that the number of natives instead of increasing has decreased. Notwithstanding this, His Excellency unhesitatingly declares that Government shows special favour to natives. It is doubtful whether any other man than Lord Curzon could have ventured in a public meeting thus to throw dust in the eyes of the public.

Regarding appointments carrying salaries of Rs. 200 to Rs. 600, the same remarks as above may be made, although Lord Curzon has tried to show that, as usual, the number of native officers has increased in these posts. It ought to be remembered that really competent Europeans cannot be had on 300 or 400 rupees. Generally speaking, Europeans or Eurasians serving on these salaries are half-educated and have obtained their appointments through the force of recommendations. If, owing to the paucity of properly educated Europeans, the number of native officers in these posts is greater, how can Lord Curzon be justified in saying, "Our policy is to restrict rather than to increase European agency?"

Lord Curzon boastfully points out that while only 12 natives held appointments carrying salaries of upwards of Rs. 1,000 forty years ago, this number has now risen to 92, and says that under the Roman Empire it was rare to find such confidence placed in a subject people. But at the time of Akbar the percentage of higher officers was 11, and it rose still higher during the time of Shahjehan. Under Akbar, out of 415 *Mansabdars*, 51 were Hindus, and under Shahjehan, out of 609, there were 110 Hindus. But now under the civilized British Government, out of 1,370 higher appointments, only 71 are held by Hindus and 21 by Muhammadans. Lord Curzon claims

far greater credit, though the percentage is only 7, than what Shahjehan might have laid claim to by showing a percentage of 18. Is this what higher education has come to, or is it that Western civilization is fond of external show?

Lord Curzon says that the rate of pay of natives is greater than before. But we do not like vague statements like this. The pay of one civilian is equal to that of 1,700 *chaprassis*. The amount of pay received by each community would therefore be a better guide to the solution of the question than the number of officers. But our wily Viceroy does not take that view of the matter.

From the account submitted to Parliament in 1892 it appears that the Government of India had to pay 15 crores of rupees to Europeans and Eurasians as salary, while only 3 crores and a half was paid to natives. From the account for 1898-99 it appears that for the Civil Department alone Government paid 8 crores to 8,000 Europeans; 7 crores to 1 lakh 30 thousand natives, and 73 lakhs 10 thousand rupees to 6,000 Eurasians. As the Railway, the Military, the Public Works, and other departments are almost solely manned by Europeans, it can readily be understood that the total amount received as pay by the natives in these departments is inconsiderable.

In reply to His Excellency's remark that Indians do not possess sufficient abilities, we must say that this is owing to the fact that Indian merit is not properly rewarded in British India. There have been distinguished men in Native States. If these illustrious men had begun their career in British India, they would have probably ended their lives as Deputy Magistrates.

40. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 7th April says that it is a number of petty local taxes which oppress poor people most.

Local taxes.

One of such taxes is the forest license. Formerly many a poor man used to depend on the forest for his livelihood. Another such tax is the tax on date trees. The revenue derived from this tax is counted under the head of excise revenue. The practice of preparing any intoxicating liquor from the date juice is not at all known in Chittagong. The attention of the authorities is drawn to these matters.

JYOTI,
April 7th, 1904.

41. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 7th April is surprised that while all the retired Anglo-Indian Judges of the High Court,

Government's treatment of Dr. Gurudas Banerji.

as also Mr. Justice Amir Ali, were invited to Government House by Lord Curzon and given a farewell dinner, no such mark of honour was shewn to Dr. Gurudas Banerji who, by universal admission, was an able and eminent Judge of that Court. The reason for this neglect probably is that, by disagreeing with the other members of the Universities Commission in certain particulars, Dr. Banerji had offended Lord Curzon.

SANJIVANI,
April 7th, 1904.

42. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th April says that while Lord Curzon has decorated Sir Thomas Raleigh and Sir Henry

Honour to retiring officials.

Prinsep with titles and treated them and Mr. Amir Ali and Mr. Latimer, His Excellency's Assistant Private Secretary, to a feast on the occasion of their retirement from public service, he did nothing of the sort in the case of Mr. Gurudas Banerji. This confirms the opinion of those people who say that Mr. Banerji incurred the displeasure of the Government by writing a note of dissent from the Universities Commission's Report. The honour enjoyed by Mr. Banerji is, however, based on the love and respect of his fellow-countrymen, the value of which is a hundred times greater than that of hollow titles.

HITAVADI,
April 8th, 1904.

43. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 7th April has the following :—

The transfer question.

Lord Curzon, as appears from his Budget speech, is still thinking over the transfer question. He loves autocratic rule and has no liking for Governors or Lieutenant Governors. According to him, a Chief Commissioner is the ideal ruler of a province. The formalities of law take much time in deciding cases. As soon as a complaint is made, let the follow be arrested and the sentence pronounced. Will this be the best method of administering justice? Let the Legislative Council and the laws be abolished and let the judges do what they please. Then, indeed, much time will be saved. Does Lord Curzon wish to see such a state of things?

SANJIVANI,
April 7th, 1904.

The bent of Lord Curzon's mind stands well revealed to us. We hear that he will try to impress upon the authorities in England the importance of partitioning Bengal. It is to be regretted that no account of the great Town Hall meeting or of the unprecedented agitation in East Bengal has yet reached England. Lord Curzon will try to win over the Secretary of State for India to his way of thinking. He was connected with various newspapers in England and will now try to bring them and the Conservative members of Parliament over to his side. Should we remain idle at this hour of danger? The agitation in Bengal has indeed been unique, but further agitation is necessary. We must send representatives to England and try to convince the British public of the mischievous character of the transfer proposal by holding meetings in the large towns in that country. We must try to induce great writers to take up our cause and to set up a strong agitation in newspapers. We must interview great statesmen in England and try to enlist them into our party. All this will require at least a lakh of rupees, as nothing can be done without money. Let all classes of men take a firm resolution and collect the amount within a month and send it to the Secretary to the Bengal Landholders' Association.

EDUCATION
GAZETTE,
April 8th, 1904.

44. A correspondent of the *Education Gazette* [Chinsura] of the 8th April writes:—

The Bengali language and the proposed transfer.

In his Mymensingh speech, Lord Curzon said, "The probability would seem to point entirely in the opposite direction and to suggest that the Assamese, whether it be a dialect to Bengali or whether it be a separate language, will be the one to disappear." If Bengali is made the Court language in Assam and is taught in Assamese schools in the place of the Assamese, then the transfer would be a sacred act. But should not the Bengali and the Uriya language be intermingled before increasing the number of Uriya-speaking people and reducing that of Bengali-speaking people under the Bengal administration? The English will be able to conquer the whole world if they can reduce the spoken vernaculars of India to these four, namely, Tamil, Mahratti, Hindi, and Bengali. We say this in earnest and not in jest. The proposed baneful transfer may bring us a great advantage in the shape of a more extensive spread of the Bengali language.

SANJIVANI,
April 7th, 1904.

45. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 7th April publishes a long letter headed "Mr. Fuller's doings," in which the writer, after stating that long before the passing of the Official Secrets Act the worst effects of such a law were felt in Assam, gives the following particulars

The case of Babu Saratchandra Dhar, Superintendent, Assam Secretariat.

of what is called a typical case.

A certain official secret having been published in the *Bengalee* newspaper, Babu Saratchandra Dhar, Superintendent in the Assam Secretariat, was ordered to find out the name of the man who had given out the secret. This he failed to do, and was in consequence at once ordered to submit his resignation, which he did. Now, this gentleman had served Government for over 25 years faithfully and well, and was always regarded as an able and trustworthy officer. And now in his old age, although there was all along not the slightest stain on his character, he was pronounced to be an incompetent man, and this for no other reason than his inability to do a work which ought to have been done by a detective police officer. Such arbitrariness and *zulm* were perhaps never before witnessed anywhere. Such incidents were taking place in that jungly province of Assam, where only they were possible, before the Official Secrets Act was passed. After this event three clerks fell under the suspicion of the authorities; one of them was suspended and the other two were degraded and transferred to Nowgong. Great uneasiness and consternation prevail among the clerks in Assam.

HITAVADI,
April 8th, 1904.

46. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th April says that in making settlements of many mahals, the Commissioner of the Sunderbans is behaving very high-handedly towards *talukdars*, *ijardars*, etc. He summons them to his

The Commissioner of the Sunderbans.

presence and then abuses them with such words as *মার* and even pulls them by the ear. If a man runs off, off goes the *husur's chaprasi* after him. If he actually escapes, his tenants are made to make applications against him. Again,

the Commissioner has ordered the forfeiture of the *ijara* and *malgujari* rights of most *talukdars* and asked their tenants not to pay rents to them. The *talukdars* have been enjoying their lands for a long time, and during the last few years they have suffered great losses on account of failures of crops. It is hoped that the authorities will see that no injustice is done to these men.

47. A correspondent of the same paper says that recently Mr. Stark, the Subdivisional Officer of Godda, who is in the habit of staying out at night, caught a respectable Marwari committing a nuisance in front of his shop and insulted and belaboured him. There is no law in force at the place making the Marwari's act criminal. In spite of this, he was made to pay a fine on the following day. No written order was given in imposing the fine, and the money was put in the poor-box.

HITAVADI,
April 8th, 1904.

48. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th April writes that Mr. Morshead, the Collector of Customs, before proceeding on leave, has left a note directing that until further orders no employé in his establishment should be given his pay. The reason why this order has been passed is that a bundle of office papers is missing, which, presumably, must have been lost through the remissness of some clerk in that office. But the withholding of the pay of the whole office for this offence seems to be a strange proceeding worthy of the Kazis of old.

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 8th, 1904.

49. The same paper writes:—
Government, it would seem, has solemnly undertaken to entertain the services of all Europeans. Every such individual, whether he be a pure Englishman or a Eurasian, is always a recipient of Government's favour. Not only does Government favour them with its own appointments, but employs them as Managers of Court of Wards' estates. All native officers have been driven away from such estates—a fact which no right-minded man who knows anything of their management would deny. Government never scruples to appoint incompetent Europeans in preference to abler native officers. As long as zamindars themselves looked after their estates they could satisfactorily manage them cheaply with the help of native officers. But as soon as a zamindar dies and his estate is brought under the Court of Wards, Europeans must be imported on high salaries, or the work, it seems, cannot be done. Is shameless partiality such as this witnessed elsewhere in the world?

DAILY HITAVADI.

The entrance to Government service is daily becoming narrower to the children of the soil. Native officers receive more of *beth* (cane) than *betan* (salary). But even this fails to satisfy these Europeans and Eurasians. They must not only pluck the fruits that are on the tree, but also carry away those that have fallen on the ground. Where then shall the unhappy natives go? There is a limit to partiality or selfishness. But the authorities are now overleaping these limits at every step. They now pay greater attention to the maintenance of their kith and kin than to fair dealing. We have been astounded and mortified at their behaviour. What can we poor subjects do if you rulers forsake your legitimate duties? The strength of the weak lies in crying, but our crying has proved to be a crying in the wilderness. Nevertheless the rulers would do well to bear in mind that this constant endeavour to support their relatives, this preference for self-interest at the sacrifice of fairness, will never be for the good either of the rulers or the ruled.

50. The *Mahima* [Calcutta] of the 8th April has the following:—
Lord Curzon announced, when he first came to India, that the Queen's Proclamation would be the golden rule of his conduct. But thanks to the influence of Anglo-Indians, in five years his resolution suffered a complete change. He now appears in his true colours. In his Budget speech His Excellency said:—

MAHIMA,
April 8th, 1904.

"I do not think that the salvation of India is to be sought on the field of politics at the present stage of her development, and it is not my conception of statesmanship to earn a cheap applause by offering so-called boons for which the country is not ready."

When Lord Salisbury was Prime Minister of England, such distinguished statesmen as Lords Dufferin and Lansdowne thought the Indians fit for political privileges. But Lord Curzon, who might sit at Lord Salisbury's feet

for years to receive his political training, now considers Indians totally unfit for political rights! What an embodiment of self-conceit Lord Curzon is! He ought nevertheless to remember that however great a statesman he may think himself to be, he is in no way superior to Lords Ripon, Dufferin, and Lansdowne.

Lord Curzon thinks that the Indians are still uncivilized and barbarous. He is perhaps under the impression that there is no Indian equal to him in political insight. He therefore treats Indian public opinion on all questions with contempt. That the conquerors should thus treat the conquered is not at all surprising. But we never knew a Viceroy who shewed such undisguised contempt for the Indians, and therefore the attitude of Lord Curzon appears to us so unusual. His Excellency has said that the higher posts under Government must always be filled up by Englishmen. This plain-speaking is indeed praiseworthy. We did not know before that we were a conquered people and that, however highly qualified we might be, we were unfit to hold high post under Government without impairing its dignity. Lord Curzon has opened our eyes. We ought to know that henceforth we should not aspire to high posts. Do the Congress leaders now see their gigantic mistake in clamouring for political rights? Lord Curzon will always cry down the Indians, no matter how eminent they may prove themselves on the Bench and in the service of Government or in the Legislative Council, simply because they are a subject people and poor.

It is not to be supposed, however, that we are drawing upon our imagination in what we have said above. Here are His Excellency's sweet words:—

"The first is that the highest ranks of civil employment in India, those in the Imperial Civil Service, though open to such Indians as can proceed to England and pass the requisite tests, must, nevertheless, as a general rule, be held by Englishmen for the reason that they possess, partly by heredity, partly by up-bringing, and partly by education, the knowledge of the principles of Government, the habits of mind, and the vigour of character, which are essential for the task, and that the rule of India being a British rule, and any other rule being in the circumstances of the case impossible, the tone and standard should be set by those who have created and are responsible for it."

May we enquire if these words are in accordance with the spirit of the Queen's Proclamation? Where is now the assurance given by Lord Curzon at the beginning of his administration that he would be guided by the Proclamation? We pray him to consider what the impression in the minds of a subject people may be if there be such disagreement between profession and practice on the part of one in his high position.

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 9th, 1904.

51. Referring to the observations made by the Viceroy in the Supreme Legislative Council on the question of the employment of natives in the public service, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 9th April writes as follows:—

Before the advent of the East India Company, *i.e.*, in the days of Nabobs and Badshas, Hindus used to be employed in all the highest posts under Government. Under the Company, down to the year 1827 the Indians were excluded from all posts carrying salaries of more than Rs. 250 per month. In 1833, however, the British Parliament ordered the appointment of Indians to high posts in the public service, irrespective of creed and colour. But the Government of India now began to devise pretexts for the purpose of disqualifying the Hindus for admission into the higher ranks of the service. The age limit in the case of candidates competing for the Civil Service was reduced and the Indians were described as a worthless people. Lord Lytton himself confessed "that no sooner the Act was passed than the Government began to devise means for practically avoiding fulfilment of it. . . . We have had to choose between prohibiting them and, cheating them and we have chosen the least straightforward course." This was in 1877. But before this the Queen's Proclamation of 1858 had confirmed in every respect the provisions of the Parliamentary Statute of 1833. Indian officials, however, adroitly managed to disregard both the Proclamation and the Statute. When in 1883 Lord Northbrook complained of the non-fulfilment of these solemn injunctions, Lord Salisbury, the then Secretary of State for India, characterised them as nothing more than instances of "political hypocrisy." The matter was subsequently discussed in Parliament in 1892, and the truth of Lord Northbrook's complaint was proved, and now,

ten years after this Lord Curzon has the audacity to come forward to defend the Government and make an attempt to disprove the truth of Lord Lytton's and Lord Salisbury's remarks. Towards the close of His Excellency's last Budget speech he said:—

"I hold, on the contrary, that it (Indian Government) is characterised by a liberality unexampled in the world. You may search through history and since the days of the Roman Empire you will find no such trust. I have endeavoured to procure from foreign Governments the corresponding figures for their foreign possessions—the Russians in Central Asia, the Dutch in Java, the French in Algeria, in Cochin China, and Tongking. I have not, unfortunately, been successful. But I have visited the majority of those countries and have seen what there prevails, and if any one think that they show proportions even remotely comparable with those which I have quoted, I can assure him he is mistaken."

Our imperialistic Viceroy is in the habit of holding up the example of the Roman Empire before the public in season and out of season. He sometimes shows an eagerness to prove that the British Empire surpasses or, at least, equals the Roman Empire in strength and benignity of administration. Such self-advertisement and self-laudation is contemptible from the standpoint of oriental morality. We attach higher value to praise given by others, and that is why we consider Lord Curzon's vain-glorious self-praise as a sure index of mental degeneration.

Lord Curzon, that hero of words, asks us to "search through history since the days of the Roman Empire," the history of the last twenty-five centuries. Besides this, he has advised us to go to Central Asia, Cochin China, Tongking, Algeria, Java, etc., to see "what there prevails." But, unfortunately, we have no time for all this. We would advise His Excellency to turn over the pages of the history of India relating to the events which occurred only 350 years ago. There he will see that Akbar, the first foreign Emperor of India, the man who had conquered the country with his own sword, had the generosity to appoint Hindus to the very highest posts in the State. Out of 414 high posts in the public service he gave 44 to Hindus. But Lord Curzon, who is the twenty-fifth representative of the British Sovereign in India, cannot make even one Hindu or Musalman a provincial Governor or Subadar. At present out of 2,450 high posts in India carrying salaries of over Rs. 1,000 each, only 93 are enjoyed by natives. Under Akbar 11 per cent. of high officers of the State were Hindus, but under the civilized British Government not more than 2½ per cent. are natives. So much for His Excellency's vauntings. Alas, Imperialism! Alas, Western Civilization! How blinding is thy influence!

52. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 10th April says:—

Mr. K. G. Gupta's appointment to the Board of Revenue.

The appointment of Mr. K. G. Gupta as a Member of the Board of Revenue is certainly news to be glad of. We are now bound to admit that

Government trusts able Bengalis. We thank heartily the Lieutenant-Governor, and pray that Mr. Gupta may live long to enjoy the honour.

BANGALAY,
April 10th, 1904.

53. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 9th April writes as follows:—

BANGAVASI,
April 9th, 1904.

Agricultural improvement. Seventy-five per cent. of the Indians live by agriculture. But a *bigha* of land in India does not yield more than three maunds of a crop, whilst a *bigha* of land in the West yields ten maunds. It would require time and funds to improve the agricultural condition of India. New systems should be introduced slowly and with circumspection. Cultivators should be taught to use new manures in their lands. Along with all this, tanks should be excavated throughout the country and arrangements should be made to improve the condition of plough-cattle. But the first thing required is pecuniary help to the cultivators. If all this is done, then alone will experimental fields and agricultural colleges be productive of benefits to the country.

54. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 10th April has the following:—

The proposed cotton-growing industry for India.

It is, no doubt, a matter for congratulation that for various reasons the Government has at last directed its attention to the improvement of agriculture. We should have been happier if care and affection for its subjects had prompted its activity in this direction. But the truth is that the Government's solicitude for the improvement of agriculture has its origin in the fact that the more raw goods India produces, the better is it for English commerce and

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 10th, 1904.

manufactures. The interest which the authorities are just now taking in the particular industry of cotton-growing has its sole origin in the fact that Manchester has for some time been suffering from a scarcity of the raw cotton. A private society, too, under the name of the British Cotton-growing Association, has been established in England with the object of promoting the cultivation of the superior class of cotton, such as is grown at present only in Egypt and in America, in India and other countries. The success of the efforts of this Association will probably mean some good to Indian cultivators as well as to the owners of Indian cotton mills. But it will also threaten a new evil to the country. To make the scheme a success, the Association proposes to create a class of European cotton-planters like the tea-planters and indigo-planters, who will carry on the industry with the help of coolies, as the tea-planters and indigo-planters do. This proposal has been approved of by the present Secretary of State. And the establishment of the industry will open a fresh door for the oppression of Indian coolies and will create a fresh field for the continuance of the system of slavery against which so much agitation has taken place.

Considering the ill-luck of the Indian people, it will be too much to hope that the proposed cotton-growing industry will do any good to Indian cultivators or to the Indian cotton-manufacturing industry. The new industry, on the contrary, will bring into existence a new class of European planters in addition to the tea-planters and indigo-planters and open up a new door for the oppression of Indian labourers. The Government of India ought to exert itself at once to prevent these evils, though it will not be easy for it to succeed in view of the facts that the British manufacturers are a very powerful class and that they have the support of the Secretary of State. All these considerations have filled us with panic at the new proposal of the Cotton-growing Association.

III.—LEGISLATION.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
April 6th, 1904.

55. Referring to the Local Self-Government Act Amendment Bill recently introduced into the Bengal Legislative Council, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 6th April writes that in other countries laws are amended with a view to removing therefrom objectionable and unpopular provisions. But in our country the primary objects of amending laws are to make the provisions more stringent and to increase the taxes! This invariable custom will surely be followed in the proposed amendment of the Local Self-Government Act. When the amending Bill is passed into law (there is no reason why it should not be passed), the District Board, that is to say, the District Magistrate, will have the power of levying an additional tax for veterinary schools, tramways, and railways. There ought to be a strong protest against this.

RATNAKAR,
April 9th, 1904.

56. The object of the Co-operative Credit Societies Bill, says the *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 9th April, is no doubt good, but it is doubted how far it will be successful. It is to be regretted that artisans will not receive as much help as cultivators will. Native artisans, especially the weavers, ought to receive more help than is provided for in the Bill.

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 11th, 1904.

57. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th April publishes a cartoon under the heading "The danger in publishing secrets." In it an Englishman, evidently an official, is represented as holding in one hand a club with the word "Prosecution" written on it, and in the other a pot with the words "Freedom of the Press" written on it. A lover of freedom of the press is represented as drinking the nectar flowing out of the pot, holding a newspaper in one hand and a pen in the other, while another man, Caution, is warning him against the club upraised by the official. The letter-press is a poem in which people are warned against the Official Secrets Act.

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 12th, 1904.

58. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 12th April publishes a cartoon under the heading "Educational reform," in which the Universities Act is represented as a monster going to devour a poor student, who, with tears in his eyes and with joined hands, is praying Lord Curzon to save him.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

59. A correspondent writes to the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 5th April that the people of Basudha, Ruputia, Dargal, Ajudhya and many other villages in the Kanksha thana of the Burdwan district are in great distress. Owing to the failure of the rains, a large portion of the land remains uncultivated. The *mahajans* have stopped selling their paddy, and labourers get no work. Many have left their homes, and some have turned thieves. Unless steps are taken early, deaths from starvation will certainly take place. BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
April 5th, 1904.
60. A correspondent of the *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 9th April writes that distress and scarcity of water prevail in many places in the Birbhum district. There is scarcity of water even in the Kendua village, which is situate on the Ajay river. Epidemics have broken out in many places. RATNAKAR,
April 9th, 1904.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

61. Under the heading "Lord Curzon, our teacher of morality," the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 7th April makes the following extract from His Excellency's work, "Problems of the Far East:—"
SANJIVANI,
April 7th, 1904.

"Before proceeding to the royal audience, I enjoyed an interview with the President of the Korean Foreign Office, an old gentleman with a faultless black hat, a benign and sleepy expression, plump cheeks, and a long thin grey moustache and beard. I remember some of his questions and answers. Having been particularly warned not to admit to him that I was only thirty-three years old, an age to which no respect attaches in Korea, when he put to me the straight question (invariably the first in an Oriental dialogue), 'How old are you?' I unhesitatingly responded, 'Forty.' 'Dear me,' he said, 'you look very young for that. How do you account for it?' 'By the fact,' I replied, 'that I have been travelling for a month in the superb climate of his Majesty's dominions.' Hearing that I had been a Minister of the Crown in England, he inquired what had been my salary, and added, 'I suppose you found that by far the most agreeable feature of office. But no doubt the perquisites were very much larger still.' Finally, conscious that in his own country it is not easy for anyone to become a member of the Government, unless he is related to the family of the King or Queen, he said to me, 'I presume you are a near relative of Her Majesty the Queen of England?' 'No,' I replied, 'I am not.' But, observing the look of disgust that passed over his countenance, I was fain to add, 'I am, however, as yet an unmarried man,' with which unscrupulous suggestion I completely regained the old gentleman's favour."

62. A coal miner writes to the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 8th April that, owing to the keen competition with European coal miners and shipowners, native coal miners and traders are suffering heavy losses. The native-owned mining industry is gradually declining, and the business bids fair to pass ere long into the hands of European traders. As long as native traders cannot manage to export coal in their own ships by their united effort, so long there can be for them no prospect of improvement. DAILY HITAVADI,
April 8th, 1904.

63. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 10th April has the following:—
Strange rumours are afloat on all sides. A certain European officer, it is said, has been implicated in pecuniary transactions of a questionable character and a secret enquiry is therefore being made, as a result of which, the European officer in question is about to leave for England. Unchaste women, it is said, cannot breathe in holy Vrindavan, for the moment they breathe its purifying air they are turned into honest women. England would seem to have come to be possessed of something of this purifying property. It is also rumoured that a native officer has been guilty of some questionable proceeding, and that an enquiry is therefore being conducted into the matter by a European officer. We have no warrant to declare the result. The Bengali proverb has it that the agricultural aspirations of the prosperous weaver proved his bane, and a change in the status of the officer in question has been attended with a like unfortunate result. RANGALAY,
April 10th, 1904.

There is a saying in English that every man has his price, and that saying is true. Only the price is different in each particular case according to the liking of the recipient. Thus one is fond of flattery, another of young women,

a third of good cheer, a fourth of a house where he is free to live in without payment of rent, while nothing delights another so much as a present, and there are also those to whom no present is so acceptable as that of ready money. There are also cases of vicarious gratification in which one must reach a man's heart through that of his gratified wife. Men thus sell themselves for various prices, and he alone is found out who sells himself for ready money, for that is the most tempting present and, as such, excites the largest amount of jealousy in those who are less fortunate. In fact, we are all thieves, and a hue and cry is made only when one is found out.

Dacca Gazette,
April 11th, 1904.

64. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 11th April has the following in its English columns:—

"The industrial movement in Bengal."

We need hardly say that the movement for sending some of our young men abroad annually in order to give them a training in foreign industrial and technical schools is one that will receive sympathy and support from every right-thinking man in this country. Already we see signs that many of our local zamindars are showing active sympathy with the movement. This is as it should be. In this matter, no differences of opinion, as in other questions, ought to interfere with a genuine appreciation of the benefits likely to accrue from it and a solid combination for the purpose of carrying its details into effect. Not even the most rabid of Bengali-hating Anglo-Indians will be able to discover in this movement any trace of sedition or any attempt to undermine the foundations of the British Empire in India. On the contrary, the success of the movement will be the best guarantee of the continuance of that rule, as it will be the best means of ameliorating the condition of the people and thereby improving the financial status of the Government. While, however, every one must agree with us in considering the present movement as devoid of any political import, we cannot join our voice with those among us who are inclined to think that this is the *only* move in the right direction which educated Indians have hitherto taken. It appears to be assumed by people of this class that our money, our energy, and our talents have hitherto been entirely wasted in abstract political movements which have been productive of no appreciable material results. They entirely ignore one very important result of the political agitation in India, viz., the education it has given to the people and the patient and minute inquiries it has originated with regard to the economic condition of the country. Does any one venture to think that without a political organisation like the Congress, combining together on a common arena the best talents of the country and leading to an interchange of thoughts and ideas concerning the political and economic condition of the different parts of this vast continent and gradually leading to a broad and cosmopolitan view of its present situation and enlarging the popular political vision—does any one think that without any such organisation we could ever have arrived at our present broad conception of our duties to our country and a desire and a hope to act in concert for the common weal of all? The success of the Congress has, moreover, been to us a striking lesson—it has revealed to us the essential unity of the whole country and the existence of a capacity among us to work together harmoniously. When results such as these have been achieved, we cannot say that the labours of the Congress have been in vain.

With regard to the present movement, we can only say that the public expect that some sort of tangible scheme should be laid before them before long, so that they can offer their opinions upon it before the details are finally settled. It ought to be known, for instance, which particular branches of industry are to be particularly selected for training our young men in. One may hope that glass, paper, and soap will not be neglected. Japan is noted for her silk industries. Silk-weaving ought therefore to receive our particular attention, as there are great possibilities in that respect in various parts of India, especially in Bengal, Assam, and Kashmir. Japan is also said to have made great strides in mining; our young men might get training there in mining and help the millionaires of our country in employing their capital in exploiting the vast resources of our country. There are various other branches of industry in which we might profitably receive instruction in Japan and America, and it ought to be the first endeavour of the leaders of this movement to investigate and ascertain them and formulate a definite scheme before any steps are taken.

URIYA PAPERS.

65. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 26th March states that there are clouds in the sky but no rain. The temperature is rising. *UTKALDIPIKA.*
The weather. Mar. 26th, 1904.
66. The same paper says that, making allowance for a few cases of fever in the Cuttack town, its general health may be said to be good. *UTKALDIPIKA.*
Fever in Cuttack town.
67. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 24th March is sorry to observe that the number of thefts and dacoities is increasing in the Balasore town. A few cases of daring robbery are specified. *SAMVAD VAHIKA.*
Theft and dacoity in Balasore town. March 24th, 1904.
68. The Bhingarpur correspondent of the *Utkaldipika* states that Mr. Blackwood, the Collector of Puri, is gaining popularity by his kind and just dealings with the people who come in contact with him. *UTKALDIPIKA.*
The Collector of Puri. March 26th, 1904.
69. The same paper congratulates Mr. K. G. Gupta on his promotion to a seat on the Board of Revenue, and hopes that he will not fail to look after the interests of Orissa, though transferred from the Province. *UTKALDIPIKA.*
Mr. K. G. Gupta congratulated.
70. The same paper has reason to fear that the accounts of the Cuttack Municipality are not in a sound state, and that they require a thorough examination. Already instances of gross corruption have come to light. *UTKALDIPIKA.*
The Cuttack Municipality.
71. The same paper regrets that some offices were kept open on the last sun-eclipse day, and that, as a consequence, many Hindu employes attended office without taking any food. The heads of offices, it is observed, should take local circumstances into consideration. *UTKALDIPIKA.*
Offices kept open on the day of the last solar eclipse.
72. Referring to the monster meeting held in the Calcutta Town Hall in connection with the proposed partition of Bengal, the same paper requests the Government of India to pay some regard to public opinion. *UTKALDIPIKA.*
The Calcutta Town Hall meeting on the partition question.
73. The same paper concurs in the views expressed by Sir Andrew Fraser in his Muzaffarpur speech in reply to an address presented to His Honour by the local Muhammadan community, and observes that each section of the Indian community, if it wants to secure the desired amount of public patronage, must educate its members to the required standard. The writer, however, adds that though the principle is good, its effect is neutralised by occasional exercise of discretion in favour of some particular member of some particular community. *UTKALDIPIKA.*
The Lieutenant-Governor vice to the Musalmans.
74. Referring to the Budget statement presented by the Finance Minister to the Supreme Council, the same paper observes that the statement has disappointed the public, for with surpluses in hand, no attempt has been made to reduce the public burden by remission of taxation. *UTKALDIPIKA.*
The Budget.
75. Referring to the last report on the administration of jails in Bengal, the same paper has reason to believe that the jail population is increasing in number year after year, and observes that this is not a hopeful sign for the future. Ignorance and poverty are at the root of many crimes, and unless persistent attempts are made to educate the masses and improve their condition, no appreciable diminution in the number of the jail population can be expected. *UTKALDIPIKA.*
The administration of jails.
76. The same paper commends the speech of Sir Donald Smeaton, C.S.I., delivered recently in Scotland, to the notice of the British public and the British Government, and hopes that they will profit much by its careful study. In the opinion of the lecturer, the United Kingdom ought to pay one-fourth of the expenses incurred on account of the standing army in India, as the army in its present strength is maintained for imperial purposes. The foreigners under the British Indian Government drawing high salaries should be replaced by Indians on low salaries, and the money thus saved should be so utilised as to render possible *UTKALDIPIKA.*
Sir Donald Smeaton's speech.

the abolition of the tax on salt, the reduction of the tax on land, and the improvement of the condition of the masses in other ways. A thrifty nation, with a credit for solvency, will no doubt be a good adjunct to the British Empire, and will be useful to the British people in various ways.

ASSAM PAPERS.

PARIDARSAN.
March 31st, 1904.

77. The *Paridarsan* [Sylhet] of the 31st March draws the attention of the Director of Public Instruction to the serious printing mistakes in the question-papers at the last Middle Vernacular Examination. The remark seriously made by an educational officer, that the examinees ought not to be affected by such mistakes in the question-papers, is so worthless that it scarcely needs any refutation.

PARIDARSAN.

78. The same paper complains that the latrine-tax in the Sylhet Municipality has been trebled at one bound. This is great *zulm* on the inhabitants of the town. Government, as well as the municipal authorities, should see that no oppression is committed upon the poor people.

PARIDARSAN.

79. The same paper has the following in English :—

"The future outlook for Assam."

The nearer the question of the partition of Bengal is drawing towards ripeness, the more insistent is becoming the apprehension which we all feel in our heart of hearts, but which we do not care to express in so many words, as to what our own future will be when the amalgamation becomes an accomplished fact. Where shall we be in the new adjustment of the provincial jurisdiction? is the moot question which we dread to answer with perfect candour in the state of suspense in which we are now passing our days. We are fully conscious that we shall at one sweep be relegated to the bottom of the scale, whence we shall have to begin our climb up afresh. The premier position which Sylhet now occupies in old Assam will be converted into one playing second fiddle to the far advanced districts that are now proposed to be superimposed upon us. It may not be very hard to struggle on, for our lot is to elbow our progress through a crowd of rivals. But the regret is that the same ground is to be gone over again with fearful odds to handicap us in the scramble. In our present situation we may be said to rest on our oars as it were. However one-sided or partial any scheme of amelioration or reorganisation might be, the claims of Sylhet could by no logic or diplomacy be brushed aside. It was only in the apportionment of the loaves and fishes of office that any bias could make differences.

The new province will be a province of two distinct divisions. The Brahmaputra Valley districts, in the interests of their backward and clamouring populations, will be constituted into a separate limb, just as Behar has been cut off and estranged. Their future is assured. Government in its anxiety to keep up the rule of *divide et impera* will continue and strengthen the present policy of paternal care in preference to one of impartiality. They have nothing to fear; nothing to gain or lose. A wide gulf has already been created between the two valleys, and the indulgent over-anxiety of the *mabaps* at the helm will cause this gulf to yawn wider and wider instead of being bridged over. It is the Surma Valley that will be pushed into the lists against the Bengal provinces that are threatened with partition. Competition will grow harder, and as time goes on, if natural laws work without hitch or providential interference, the fittest will survive and grasp at the whole preserves. Pushed aside and worsted, we shall return to the place whence we had sprung to begin life anew. The Surma Valley will never for all its clamour or cry get preferential ordinances in its favour; nay, it cannot with decency claim them. Such being the case, is it not a matter of anxious consideration where we shall be in the new economy of things? We can safely assert we shall be nowhere and shall, further, be neither fish, nor flesh, nor fowls of the air. The outlook is therefore dark and grim. But how to furbish it up? Our distinguished leaders of thought should set their brains at work to prevent the prospective swamping up.

In the next place, signs and proofs are not wanting to convince the most apathetic of our readers that the new province will have a preponderating

Muhammadan population. These subjects of His Majesty have managed, despite odds and discouragements, to compel the Government to give them better treatment than on a parity of reasons they could lay claim to. Though it will be unsafe and invidious to aver that they have been buoyed up with any positive assurances of a too generous shower of gifts, yet it is pretty certain that they hopefully look forward to, and almost confidently count on, a lion's share of the choice blessings in Government's gift. If such a forecast is at all warrantable by the course of events up to now, then the struggle that will ensue for this Valley will be rendered still harder. In the new *regime* educational fitness will in no way be more honoured or appreciated. Favouritism and special recommendation will still hold the ground and will, as in the past, continue to elbow out merit or worth. Besides, in the new era of University education which the passing of the Universities Bill will usher in, the progress of higher education in the province will receive a check and the set-back will almost synchronise with the arrest of the onward impulse. It may also be reasonably apprehended that the lines on which the new province will be run will be reactionary and retrograde and before the heats and fumes of the present unrest on the partition question will have spent out, repression will replace encouragement, and absolutism, the present remnants of enlightenment and liberality. So, all things considered and all sides observed, the perspective can never consist of panoramic vistas of bright prospects and steady advancement. Emulation—healthy, invigorating emulation for better life and serener light with one's equals or superiors having altogether died out in the past, and a struggle with a better-equipped and better-qualified field of competitors having to be fought over again with no better weapons than in the past and on no better terms, this valley will find itself long before much distanced in the race and thrown back so far that it will have to wait till the Millennium comes for regaining its lost ground and position. From these motives of self-preservation and for our very life, should we not oppose the proposed enlargement of Assam?

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 16th April, 1904.

